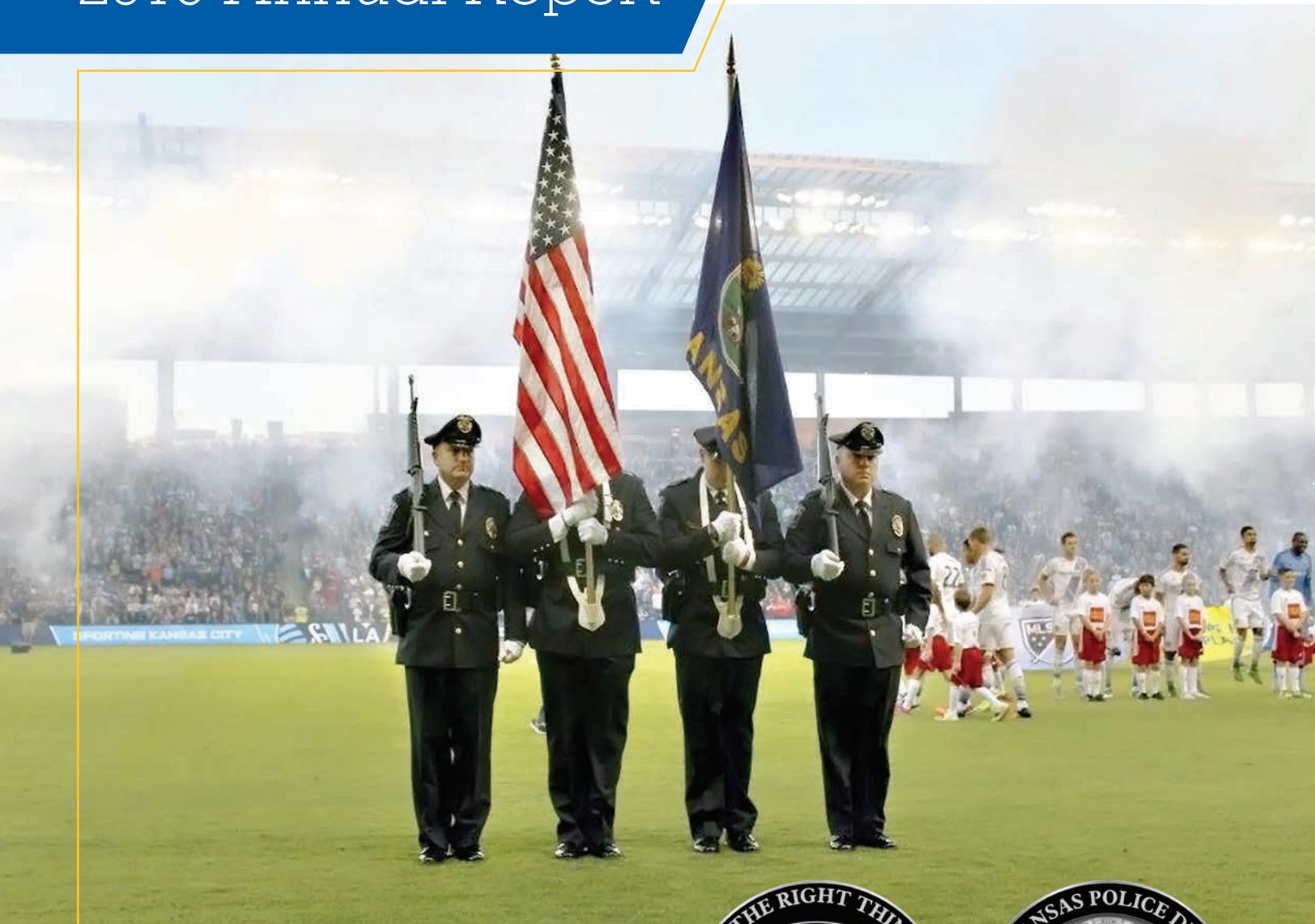
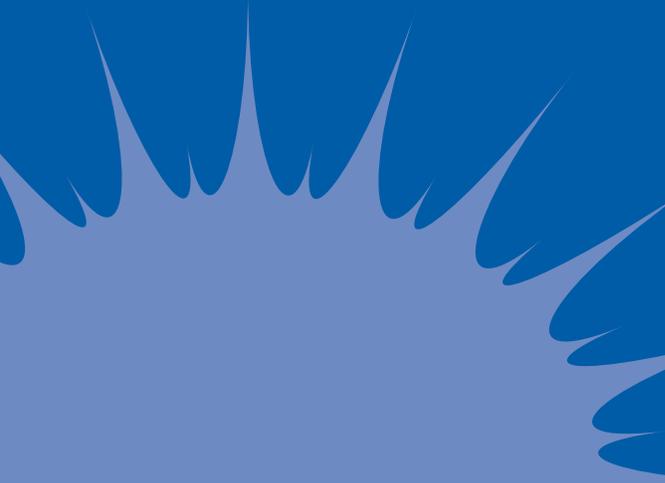


# MERRIAM POLICE

2015 Annual Report





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CITY POPULATION  
**11,281**

CALLS FOR SERVICE  
**12,882**

WRITTEN REPORTS  
**3,648**

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS  
**648**

CAR SEAT CHECKS  
**99**

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
EMPLOYEES  
**35**

TORCH RUN MONEY RAISED  
**\$21,150**

TOTAL BUDGET  
**\$3,770,499**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Merriam Residents,

The Merriam Police Department appreciates your support in 2015 — a year that was somewhat challenging for many law enforcement professionals around the country. Images of demonstrations seemed to portray our work in a sometimes negative light, while at the same time officers continued to put their lives on the line again and again to protect those they serve. No, it is not an easy time to be a police officer.

But we are fortunate to serve the Merriam community, home to some of the nation's best citizens. Our officers are not only grateful for the opportunity to keep the city safe, we feel appreciated and valued. Where else are police officers so frequently thanked for their efforts, invited to join residents at gatherings, and offered spots at local dinner tables to enjoy great meals?

Your officers are proud of their involvement in local community events and activities. They provide unique educational and outreach experiences for residents, including station tours for Girl and Boy Scout troops; safe and fun trick-or-treating on Halloween; safety presentations at business events; and active participation in events that benefit Special Olympics Kansas. Officers are also in leadership positions for the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Popcorn Standoff, and Heroes Pull.

However, our number one priority is keeping the City of Merriam safe.

In November 2015, two Merriam officers responded to a "shots fired" call near Shawnee Mission Medical Center, when they came under fire while talking to witnesses. They managed to direct the witnesses to an area of cover, located the source of gunfire and responded as true professionals. Demonstrating their training and skills, they positioned themselves to prevent the suspect from escaping and called for assistance, which led to a peaceful resolution. For their exemplary performance, these officers were awarded the Merriam Police Award for Valor.

The Merriam Police Department's service is guided by its core values of "Courage ... Sacrifice ... Compassion" and the mission statement, "Providing the Merriam community with professional, ethical and compassionate law enforcement." We take these principles and ideals very seriously, continually work to improve our skills, and always consider the best interest and safety of the community in all that we do.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be your Chief of Police. Serving you and your officers is an honor and a privilege.

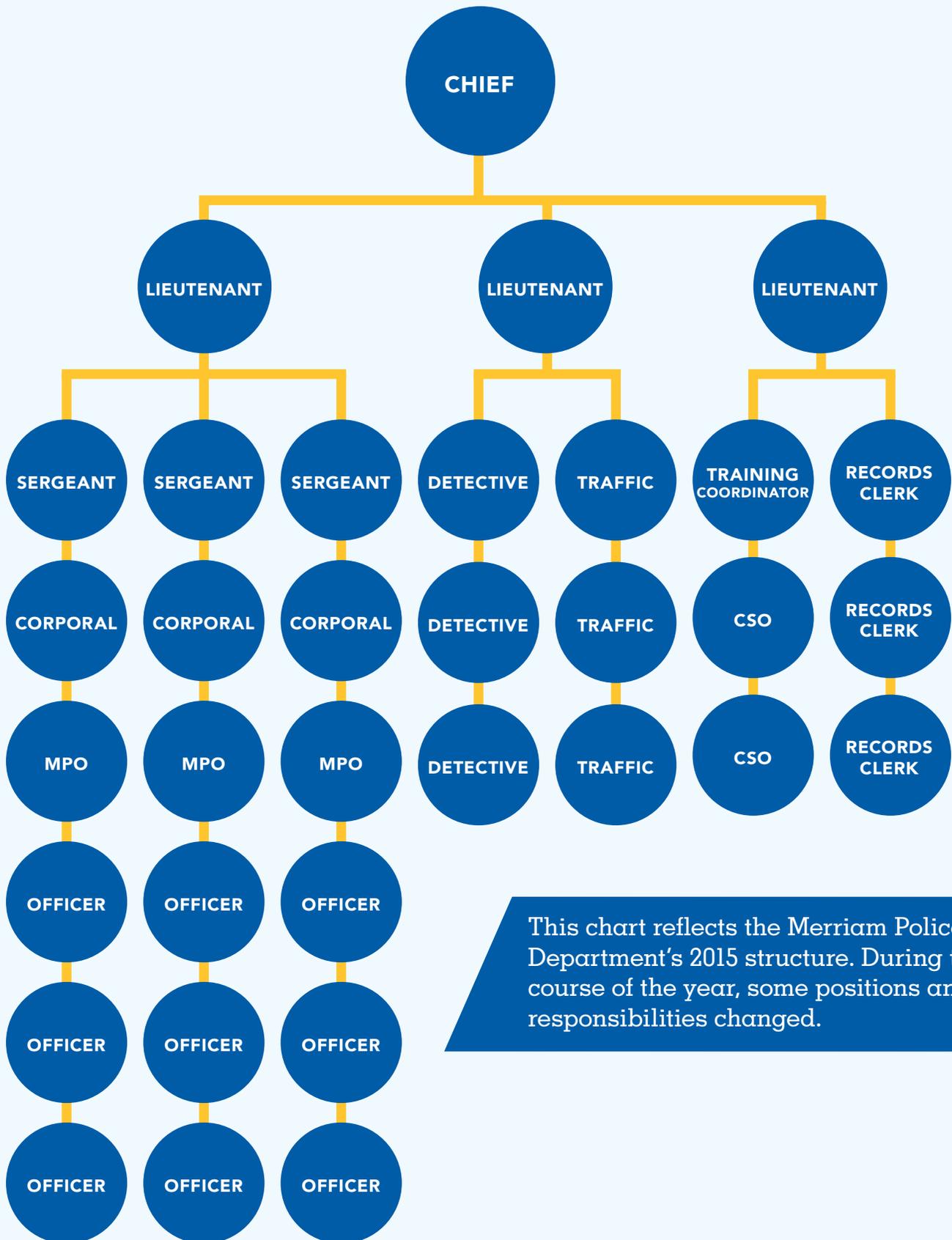
I hope you enjoy our 2015 Annual Report. If you need any additional information please do not hesitate to ask. We are here to "serve and protect."

With Honor and Respect,



Michael Daniels  
Chief of Police

# 2015 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



This chart reflects the Merriam Police Department's 2015 structure. During the course of the year, some positions and responsibilities changed.



# ADMINISTRATION

The administrative officers of the Merriam Police Department are responsible for providing a variety of services. There are four administrative officers: Chief Michael Daniels, Major Darren McLaughlin, Captain Todd Allen, and Captain Troy Duvanel. These veteran officers have a combined 93 years of police experience.

## **PATROL COMMANDER**

Major Darren McLaughlin is the Patrol Commander. He has been with the police department for 26 years, and is responsible for providing professional uniformed police service to the community. He is familiar with all current laws as well as contemporary police tactics and operations. He investigates all citizen complaints about uniformed officers. Major McLaughlin is a graduate of the Northwestern University Police Staff and Command course. Contact Major McLaughlin at 913.322.5587 or e-mail [Dmclaughlin@merriam.org](mailto:Dmclaughlin@merriam.org)

## **INVESTIGATIONS COMMANDER**

Captain Troy Duvanel is the Investigations Commander and has served with the Merriam Police Department for 20 years. He is responsible for supervising the detectives who investigate a wide variety of crimes, including property crimes, financial cases, and crimes against persons including sexual abuse cases and homicides. Capt. Duvanel serves on both the Metro Squad and the Johnson County Officer involved Shooting Investigation Team (O.I.S.I.T) as a lead supervisor. He can be reached by e-mail at [tduvanel@merriam.org](mailto:tduvanel@merriam.org) and by telephone at 913.322.5567.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES COMMANDER**

Captain Todd Allen is the Support Services Commander and has served the City of Merriam for 19 years. He is responsible for Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and provides records management, animal control, evidence/property control and department training. He supervises the Community Service Officers and Records Clerks. He previously served as a patrol supervisor for fourteen years and a SWAT team member for seven years. He can be reached by email at [tallen@merriam.org](mailto:tallen@merriam.org) and by telephone at 913.322.5589.



## FORFEITURE REPORT

According to K.S.A. 60-4117, law enforcement agencies are required to report the status of their Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund in an "annual report." The report must include the type and approximate value of the forfeited property, the amount of any forfeiture proceeds received, and how any of those proceeds were expended.

This section is included in all annual reports to ensure that the Merriam Police Department stays in compliance with K.S.A. 60-4117. Any questions concerning specific details should be directed to the City of Merriam's Finance Department.

### Drug Forfeiture Activities in 2015

On Jan. 1, 2015, there was **\$94,447.44** in the Merriam Special Law Enforcement Fund. Through the course of the year, the following receipts and expenses were made to this fund:

#### RECEIPTS

Total funds received	\$14,593.47
Interest earned on account in 2015	\$195.49
<b>Total Assets for 2015:</b>	<b>\$14,788.96</b>

#### EXPENDITURES

Attorney's fees (includes Johnson County District Attorney fees)	\$771.00
Uniforms	\$15,869.35
Training	\$6,350.00
LEXIPOL policy manual service	\$6,033.00
Traffic camera	\$4,590.00
Weapons cabinet	\$1,932.80
Gas Masks for officers	\$1,112.25
Workout/fitness equipment	\$698.65
<b>Total expenditures in 2015:</b>	<b>\$37,357.05</b>

Fund balance as of Jan. 1, 2016: **\$71,879.35**

# BUDGET EXPENSE REPORT

In 2015, Merriam's total police budget was \$3,770,449. This amount included all projected costs of personnel, contractual services, commodities, and capital outlay purchases. Of the total budget, \$3,387,592 was dedicated to employee salaries and benefits. During the 2015 budget year, the Merriam Police Department spent \$3,601,694. Below is a breakdown of expenditures by major categories as of December 31, 2015.

## PERSONNEL

This budget item includes salaries, benefits, overtime costs, and other expenses.

BUDGETED:	\$3,387,592
SPENT:	\$3,268,992

PERCENT OF BUDGET SPENT: 96.5%

## CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

This budget item includes utilities, equipment rental and repair, custodial services, training expenses, vehicle repair, and building maintenance.

BUDGETED:	\$198,285
SPENT:	\$194,893

PERCENT OF BUDGET SPENT: 98.3%

## SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

This budget item includes office equipment, police equipment, uniforms, and fuel.

BUDGETED:	\$184,572
SPENT:	\$137,809

PERCENT OF BUDGET SPENT: 74.7%

Police department spending was approximately \$168,755 or 4.5 percent under budget in 2015.

# CRIME STATISTICS

## PART ONE CRIMES IN 2015

Each year we report Part One crimes to the Kansas Bureau of Investigations. Part One crimes are defined by the FBI and used throughout the country as a benchmark for crime statistics.

### 5-YEAR TRENDS

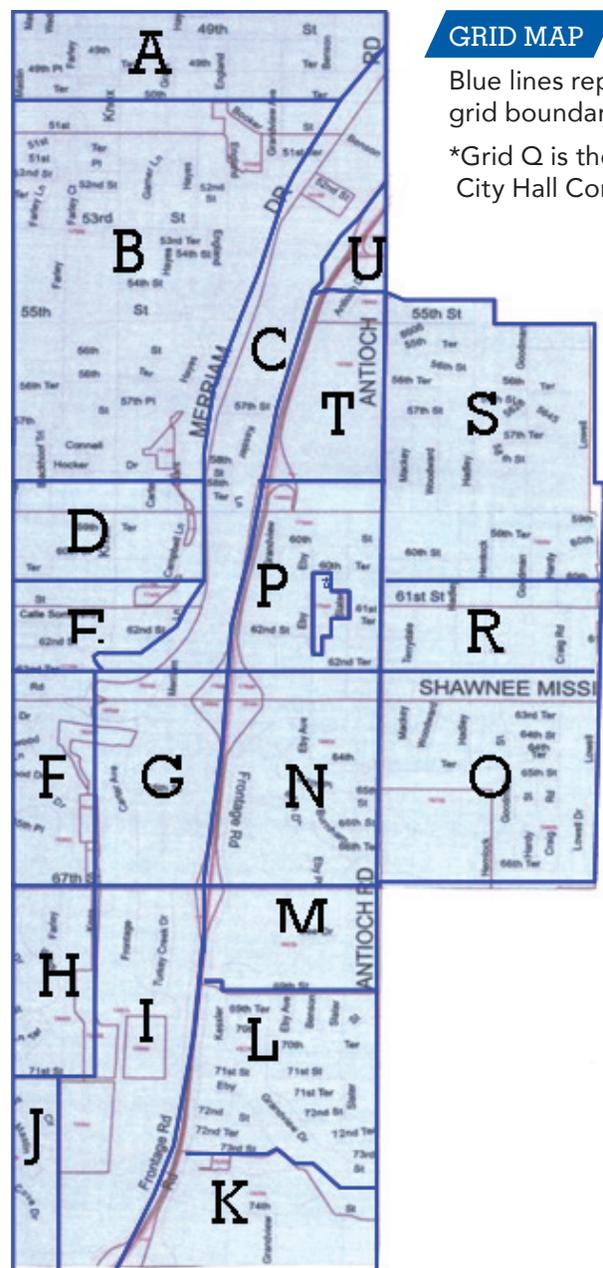
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
	0	1	0	1	1	MURDER
	5	10	5	3	6	RAPE
	6	11	7	5	3	ROBBERY
	122	183	169	135	129	ASSAULTS
	57	53	77	64	75	BURGLARY
	473	445	403	392	445	THEFT
	81	68	55	53	100	AUTO THEFT
	1	0	3	1	2	ARSON
	745	771	719	654	761	TOTAL BY YEAR

# CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

The Merriam Police Department tracks criminal activity and trends by dividing the city into grids that separate residential areas from business areas, as much as possible.

The chart below will give you information on the number of criminal reports taken in each grid during 2015. Persons Crimes include crimes such as assault, battery, sex crimes, and other crimes that have people as victims. Burglaries/Thefts include all burglaries to businesses, homes and cars, along with any theft. Auto thefts include stolen vehicles. Drug crimes include all crimes involving controlled substances or drug paraphenalia. The "Other" category covers all crimes not listed in previous categories.

GRID	BURGLARIES/ THEFTS	AUTO THEFT	PERSONS CRIME	DRUG CRIMES	OTHER	TOTALS
A	48	11	14	4	19	96
B	32	11	24	13	27	107
C	16	14	10	16	17	73
D	8	2	2	2	7	21
E	22	9	24	7	18	80
F	9	0	2	0	5	16
G	22	4	3	5	10	44
H	4	2	4	0	7	17
I	20	10	2	7	6	45
J	21	1	20	4	15	61
K	15	3	13	7	17	55
L	17	3	12	7	30	69
M	11	5	1	0	2	19
N	60	10	20	17	21	128
O	12	1	4	5	8	30
P	23	2	6	18	34	83
Q	0	0	0	2	3	5
R	12	3	3	1	6	25
S	21	5	10	2	22	60
T	132	3	16	18	42	211
U	2	1	3	9	3	18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>319</b>	



# INVESTIGATIONS

In 2015 the detectives were assigned 498 cases and solved 116 for a clearance rate of 23 percent. These cases included an attempted homicide, aggravated robbery and battery cases, unattended death investigations, felony sex crimes, domestic violence crimes, financial and property crimes.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
0	2	0	1	1*	Homicide
29	50	61	54	64	Burglary
106	114	95	90	61	Theft
22	16	6	4	13	False Writing
38	65	30	18	29	Auto Theft
45	47	20	10	42	Auto Burglary
6	13	3	3	11	Identity Theft
6	11	6	3	4	Robbery
17	41	26	17	9	Battery
22	62	49	33	42	Battery/DV
13	20	16	12	14	Felony Sex Offenses
29	24	19	15	17	Criminal Damage
7	14	9	10	5	Criminal Threats
6	14	13	8	9	Phone Harassment
9	17	25	13	17	Unattended Death
17	12	7	6	9	Child Cases (CINC)
6	4	2	3	5	Kidnapping
0	0	1	0	2	Arson
3	9	7	6	9	Assault
40	5	4	5	25	Credit Card Fraud
94	86	85	83	110	All Others
<b>509</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

\*attempted

Captain Duvanel served on a Metro Squad during 2015, assisting North Kansas City PD, and Detective Naegele assisted Overland Park with the investigation of one of several homicides that occurred in the 6100 block of Robinson, just outside Merriam city limits. Detective Wechsler served on the Johnson County Officer Involved Shooting Investigation Team (OISIT), assisting with an officer involved shooting in Gardner.

## TESTIMONIAL

“Captain Troy Duvanel served as the lead officer of the Metro Squad (in June 2015). His attention to detail and management of the case helped make it a success. His dedication to duty and perseverance during the investigation was much appreciated by members of the North Kansas City Police Department and by our community.”

— STEVE BEAMER, CHIEF OF POLICE  
NORTH KANSAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# PATROL DIVISION



The patrol division comprises three patrol shifts and a traffic unit; it is responsible for answering calls for service, traffic enforcement, traffic accidents and other tasks essential to serving the citizens of Merriam.

Last year, our officers answered 12,882 calls for service. These calls can range from simple city ordinance violations to severe crimes involving personal injury or death. Merriam police officers also conducted more than 24,052 self-initiated citizen contacts. These included traffic stops, suspicious person checks, business checks, community outreach and other miscellaneous duties.

Officers took 3,648 criminal offense reports, and as a result arrested 1,245 people.

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
12,769	13,168	13,315	12,976	12,882

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Division Commanders are responsible for ensuring that officers follow proper procedure and department rules and regulations. There are four main aspects of police work that the Merriam Police Department tracks and investigates: officer complaints, vehicle pursuits, foot pursuits, and use of force incidents.

During 2015 there were five officer complaints that were investigated. Four of the complaints were unfounded; one was founded. The officer involved received a written counseling and remedial training.

There was one vehicle pursuit in 2015. The investigation found that it was within department policy.

There were two foot pursuits. Both investigations found that they were within department policy.

## TESTIMONIAL

“ I was driving northbound when my tire blew out. Right after pulling over, I looked in the rearview mirror and saw flashing lights and immediately felt relieved. One of your very nice, kind and caring officers walked up to my window and asked if I needed assistance. He graciously offered to change the tire for me and allowed me to sit in his car before getting me on my way.

— EMPLOYEE OF A MERRIAM BUSINESS, JANUARY 2015 ”



# TRAINING

The State of Kansas requires all police officers to complete a state sponsored police academy. The Merriam Police Department also requires any new officer to complete a 12 to 14 week field training program. The State of Kansas requires certified police officers to attend a minimum of 40 hours of training each year. Merriam police officers received an average of 131 hours of training in 2015.



## USE OF FORCE

The officers of the Merriam Police Department are faced with many challenges when making arrests. Some of those challenges involve persons who resist the officers who attempt to arrest them. During 2015, the Merriam Police Department made a total of 1,245 arrests and only had to restrain 26 individuals who resisted arrest. Of those, 18 were under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or both.

Below is a breakdown of the types of force used to restrain combative or potentially dangerous suspects:

**EMPTY HAND CONTROL:** This category describes when officers wrestle with, and physically restrain a combative person. This level of restraint was used 17 times.

**TASER:** The Taser is a device used to stop the suspect from resisting arrest by causing main muscle groups to lock up. We pointed the Taser at three suspects which caused their immediate compliance and had to deploy the Taser one time to gain compliance.

**FIREARMS:** There were three incidents where officers had reason to believe a suspect had the ability to resist with deadly force and pointed their firearms at the person. Firearms are only used in situations when lives are in danger. In all five 2015 cases the persons complied and were arrested without further incident.



# MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

The enforcement of traffic laws is an important part of a police officer's job, a duty that directly contributes to public safety in the community. The purpose of traffic enforcement is to reduce traffic accidents and save lives. In 2015, Merriam officers issued 9,251 traffic citations.

The following numbers represent some of the violations that Merriam officers issued citations for in 2015:

<b>SPEEDING</b> 3,285	<b>TRAFFIC SIGNAL VIOLATIONS</b> 268
<b>NO PROOF OF INSURANCE</b> 1,763	<b>STOP SIGN VIOLATIONS</b> 114
<b>SEATBELT VIOLATIONS</b> 629	<b>DUI</b> 133
<b>DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED LICENSE</b> 390	

The section of Shawnee Mission Parkway in Merriam accounted for 27% of all accidents in 2015. These top 10 locations accounted for 54% of all accidents in Merriam in 2015.

One of the fundamental duties of any police department is to investigate motor vehicle accidents. The City of Merriam has 65 miles of roadway within its borders, including approximately three miles of interstate highway. According to data provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) the portion of Interstate 35, just north of 75th Street, is the busiest section of highway in the State of Kansas. KDOT estimates that over 100,000 cars drive through the city each day.

With the types of roadways that run through Merriam, and the high number of businesses and general drive-through traffic, the problem of traffic control and accident investigation becomes a full-time challenge.

## 2015 CRASH FACTS

There were 648 motor vehicle accidents reported to the Merriam Police Department in 2015 compared to 590 in 2014. Of these:

- » 156 accidents involved some level of personal injuries
- » 409 accidents resulted in damage of more than \$1,000
- » 27 accidents were alcohol-related
  - There were injuries in 8 of these
- » 103 accidents were reported and investigated as Hit-and-Run
- » 31 were on private property
- » 83 were minor accidents under \$1,000

*NOTE: The above statistics do not include the 194 accidents reported to KHP that occurred on I-35.*

## TOP CRASH LOCATIONS

<b>SHAWNEE MISSION PARKWAY &amp; I-35</b>	81
<b>JOHNSON DRIVE &amp; I-35</b>	46
<b>75<sup>TH</sup> STREET &amp; I-35</b>	50
<b>SHAWNEE MISSION PARKWAY &amp; ANTIOCH</b>	43
<b>67<sup>TH</sup> STREET &amp; I-35</b>	35
<b>ANTIOCH ROAD &amp; I-35</b>	32
<b>SHAWNEE MISSION PARKWAY &amp; IKEA WAY</b>	22
<b>SHAWNEE MISSION PARKWAY &amp; MASTIN</b>	14
<b>67<sup>TH</sup> STREET &amp; FRONTAGE</b>	12
<b>SHAWNEE MISSION PARKWAY &amp; EBY</b>	12

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The Community Service Officers are non-sworn members of the police department. Their job is to assist the public with various police-related functions that do not necessarily need to be performed by law enforcement officers.

CSOs are assigned many different duties and tasks within the Merriam Police Department. They cover school crossings, perform records management functions, fingerprinting, and routine walk-in reports. They act as the court bailiff, assist patrol with traffic control needs, motorist assistance, and other support functions. Their number one responsibility is animal control. This includes picking up strays, enforcing animal control ordinances, and helping control nuisance animals.

Last year the Merriam Police Department impounded 120 stray animals, including 22 cats and 97 dogs. Owners claimed one of the impounded cats and 39 of the impounded dogs.

**NOTE:** Please remember that pets should be licensed. Not only is it required by law, it will also help the police department return lost pets. Please call 913.322.5560 for information about pet registration, or visit [www.Merriam.org/MPD](http://www.Merriam.org/MPD) (Go to "Divisions" and then "Animal Control").

## The following is a list of some of the CSOs activities for the year:

Answered 288 animal control calls.

Wrote 105 animal control-related reports.

Spent 271 hours on court-related duties.

Took 89 walk-in police reports.

Performed 173 civilian fingerprint requests.

Performed 99 car seat checks.

In addition to these activities, CSOs are also required to attend various training classes throughout the year. These include but are not limited to Animal Control, Carotid Restraint Hold, Peer Support, Policy Manual, Child Safety Seat Certification and crime lab training.

## TESTIMONIAL

I want to recognize one of your employees who went above and beyond in helping me. She helped me get my fingerprints sent in so I could take my nursing exams after I went to multiple other establishments and could not get assistance. She brightened my day with her helpfulness amongst my horrible day. This might sound like a small thing, but she helped me when I needed it and thanks to her I am now officially a registered nurse in the state of Georgia."

— A FORMER RESIDENT

# OFFICERS AT WORK

Merriam Police Officers respond to many different types of calls for service. The following list contains examples of memorable incidents handled by Merriam officers in 2015. The incidents on this list were submitted by the patrol supervisors.

01.20.2015

## SUICIDAL SUBJECT

Officers were sent to the area of 8100 W. 56th Terrace after receiving a call about a person lying on the ground and in need of help. Cpl. Waters, Sgt Reynolds, MPO Eickhoff and MPO Herron arrived and located a male with a large, bleeding wound to his neck. Cpl. Waters applied pressure to the injured man's neck until medical personnel arrived to transport him to the hospital. An investigation conducted by Detective Mullis determined this was an attempted suicide involving a shot gun in the backyard of a residence. The man was later released from the hospital and began attending counseling sessions.

02.03.2015

## AUTO THEFT/KIDNAPPING

Officers were called to the 7200 block of Eby where a man and a woman were moving into an apartment. The woman left her 1 year old child unattended in a running vehicle. An unidentified male subject seen walking near the residence entered the vehicle and drove away with the child still in the vehicle. Approximately six minutes later, the vehicle was found in the area of Johnson Drive and I-35 Highway; the child was still inside the vehicle and unharmed. Despite a canine search of the area surrounding the abandoned vehicle, the suspect was not located, and still has not been identified. (Sgt. Walton and PO Vincent)

02.16.2015

## ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING

Officers were dispatched to a business in the 9400 block of 55th street, where a female employee

was working at the front receptionist desk when a male came in asking for a job application. He received one and left, but returned a short time later, changing the position of a security camera to obscure its view of the front desk. He then repeatedly told the female employee to come with him, until other employees heard him and came down the hall to see what was going on. Finally, after unsuccessfully kidnapping the woman and drawing the attention of witnesses, the suspect fled the scene. Despite an attempt to hide his identity by tampering with video equipment, enough footage was collected, along with fingerprints, to identify and arrest the subject. (Sgt. Reynolds, Cpl. Waters, MPO Waller, MPO Sparks, MPO Eickhoff, and Detective Mullis)

03.23.2015

## ATTEMPTED MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Officers were dispatched to the parking lot of a business located in the 5700 block of Antioch following the report of someone trying to steal a car. When officers arrived, the victim said the suspect had just run away on foot, but was soon located hiding behind a tree in a yard near Merriam Town Center. A perimeter was set up and with the assistance of the Leawood Police Department's K-9 unit, the suspect was apprehended, arrested, and confessed that he did try to steal the vehicle. (Cpl. Waters, MPO Waller, Detective Wechsler, and PO Ready)

04.04.2015

## DOMESTIC AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance in the 10200 block of W. 69th Street, where it

was reported that an intoxicated 48 year old female was arguing with her 56 year old boyfriend. After officers arrived they determined it was merely a verbal argument and no laws were broken. The female was going to leave and stay with a friend for the night. However, she became upset while preparing to leave the residence, grabbed a knife from the kitchen, and said she intended to stab her boyfriend. As she began walking towards him officers grabbed the weapon. She was arrested and no one was injured. (PO Rock, PO Vincent, PO Stock, Cpl. Weiler)

06.20.2015

## AGGRAVATED ASSAULT LEO

Officers were called to the 9100 block of W. 74th Street about a disturbance. Upon arrival a 30 year old male was seen walking away from the area, but he did not acknowledge the officers. As the man crossed a road and walked into a field, officers told him to stop but he reached into his waistband as if he had a gun. Officers drew their weapons and gave several commands to the male who did not move for a few seconds. He was arrested and did not have a gun. (Sgt. Walton, PO Courtney, PO Rock)

07.12.2015

## INJURED SUBJECT

A male subject was trimming trees with a chainsaw when he seriously cut and injured himself by accident. The man was bleeding profusely from a gash in his lower leg when Cpl. Browning arrived. Cpl. Browning arrived to assist by slowing the blood loss until emergency medical personnel arrived. The man was transported to the hospital by ambulance and treated for his injuries.

**07.18.2015  
CHILD ENDANGERMENT**

PO Stock, MPO Herron and PO Filson responded to a business parking lot in the 5800 block of Antioch Road where a 2 year old child was locked in a vehicle that was not running. The outdoor temperature was 91 degrees Fahrenheit with a heat index of 101 degrees. Out of concern for the child, an adult female bystander had broke one of the vehicle's windows. When the child's 24 year old aunt and 23 year old uncle were contacted in a nearby business, they claimed to have forgotten about the child and said they had only been in the store for a few minutes. It was later discovered to have been closer to 20 minutes. The child was okay and released to another family member. The subjects were charged by the Johnson County District Attorney's Office with child endangerment, and the incident made local, national, and international news.

**07.24.2015  
MULTI STATE THEFT**

Sgt. Brokaw stopped a suspicious vehicle in a parking lot at the 6600 block of E. Frontage Road. The 47 year old and 36 year old male occupants from Texas, were found in the vehicle with a large quantity of college text books later estimated to be valued at several thousand dollars; all of which were stolen from colleges in Kansas and Missouri. During the investigation it was discovered that the suspects had been stealing college textbooks from libraries and selling them. Both suspects were arrested and later convicted on felony theft charges. (Sgt. Brokaw, Det. Wechsler, Det. Mullis)

**08.31.2015  
AUTO THEFT**

A 20 year old Lenexa man used a fraudulent check to purchase a Toyota FJ Cruiser valued at just under \$24,000 from a car dealership in Merriam. The subject was found

to have committed similar thefts in Olathe, Shawnee and at a different car dealership in Merriam. He was later arrested and charged with the thefts.

**08.31.2015  
AGGRAVATED ROBBERY/  
AGGRAVATED KIDNAPPING**

Officers responded to a robbery in the 6400 block of E. Frontage Rd. A male resident answered the door for a female who was asking for help. When he opened the door he was attacked and restrained by at least three unknown males, sustaining minor injuries. The suspects then took thousands of dollars worth of work equipment from the victim and left. The stolen work equipment was later recovered but no suspects have been identified. (PO Ready, PO Rock, PO Meyers, Cpl. Weiler, Det. Wechsler, Det. Naegele)

**09.02.2015  
ATTEMPTED MURDER/AGGRAVATED  
KIDNAPPING/AGGRAVATED ROBBERY**

Officers responded to an armed robbery at a in the 6800 block of Antioch. A male wearing a mask entered the business armed with a shotgun and robbed the store with two employees inside. The 18 year old suspect shot one of the employees in the face and left the business. MPO Waller recognized the suspect on surveillance video footage due to a previous incident, and an arrest was made the following day. The victim survived the shooting but sustained serious injury. The suspect is currently in jail awaiting trial for attempted murder, aggravated kidnapping, and aggravated robbery. (PO Ready, MPO Waller, Cpl. Weiler, Det. Wechsler, Det. Naegele, Sgt. Brokaw)

**10.23.2015  
UNATTENDED DEATH**

Officers responded to a residence in the 8400 block of 64th Street, where an adult female was trapped

under a fallen tree. Upon arrival it was quickly determined that she was deceased. The incident occurred when the 29 year old victim and two other family members were trying to cut down and remove a very large tree from their yard. The tree was cut through with a chain saw and as they were trying to get it to fall south, it fell to the west and onto the victim, instantly killing her. Merriam Investigators responded as well as the Johnson County Crime Lab to process the scene. (PO Hannabass, PO Hutchinson, PO Stock, Sgt. Reynolds, Det. Naegele and Det. Wechsler)

**11.05.2015  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/LEO**

Officers were dispatched to the 7200 block of Eby Drive in reference to two independent reports of gunfire in the area north of 9100 W. 74th Street (Shawnee Mission Medical Center).

Sgt. Brokaw and Cpl. Weiler arrived on scene and heard more shots being fired. Sgt. Brokaw saw a silhouette of a body and muzzle flashes in the southwest window of an apartment, and heard the shots fired from the same area. Responding officers believed they were the intended targets of the gunshots. Immediately after the shots were fired, the window was shut and the blinds were closed. Additional officers, and a tactical unit, responded to the scene. No officers were hurt during the incident.

After a couple of hours a 23 year old female and a 25 year old male exited the apartment and were taken into custody. A search warrant was obtained for the apartment and evidence of the crime was found inside, including a handgun. The female suspect later plead guilty to firing the shots.

For their exemplary performance, the officers were awarded the Merriam Police Award for Valor.

# SUPPORT SERVICES



## RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Records Unit is responsible for the handling of police records once taken by a police officer. These reports have to be verified, stored, and properly distributed to citizens, courts and other law enforcement agencies. The unit also handles citizen fingerprint requests. Lisa Jacobs, Ronda Brumbaugh and Karen Gibson are currently assigned to our records unit. If you have any questions or need help call 913.322.5560.



## FINGERPRINT SERVICES

The Merriam Police Department provides fingerprint services during normal business hours. Many times per year, individuals need their fingerprints taken for financial bonds, the insurance industry or other reasons. We will provide this service by appointment by calling 913.322.5560 to set up a time. There is a \$35 fee for this service.



## ONLINE REPORTING

The Merriam Police Department has an online reporting system. This is for minor crimes, suspicious activity, and house watch requests. Citizens can report crimes at their convenience and this helps to free up officers to respond to more serious calls. Last year the Merriam Police Department took 188 reports using this system, saving roughly 282 man-hours. The on-line reporting can be found at [www.merriam.org/MPD](http://www.merriam.org/MPD) under the "File a Report" tab.



## HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM

Each year, a number of vacationing Merriam residents will register their homes with the police department for extra patrol. The Merriam House Watch Program is a crime prevention program that is designed to reduce house burglaries and provide citizens with a sense of security while they are away from their homes. The citizen completes a simple form and officers spend designated times checking these residences while the owners are away. In 2015, 30 Merriam citizens took advantage of this program online. Citizens may complete a house watch form online by visiting the Merriam PD website at [www.Merriam.org/MPD](http://www.Merriam.org/MPD) under the "House Watch Request" tab.



## EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT

One of the community service officers is assigned to help manage the department's recovered property and evidence. CSO Jaime Brokaw is responsible for properly logging and storing all recovered property and evidence. She is also responsible for the safety and security of this evidence and must be available to respond to Municipal and District Court to testify concerning the evidentiary chain of custody. The property custodian is responsible for destroying evidence when it is no longer needed for court or seeing that property is returned to the lawful owners.



## CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSTALLATION

CSO's Jaime Brokaw and Charlie Yocum are both trained and certified in the proper installation of child safety seats. Appointments can be made with either CSO. The service is free to Merriam residents and \$35 for non-residents. Bring your vehicle and your car seat to the Merriam Police station and they will ensure it is properly installed. The Merriam Police performed 99 car seat checks or installations in 2015.



## POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

This is a community relations program that allows citizens to ride with a police officer during their normal shift. A citizen signs up to ride for two to eight hours on any shift they choose. They must complete a form that allows a records check to be conducted. The patrol shift supervisor coordinates with the citizen to schedule their ride-along visit. Persons under the age of 15 must have a responsible adult with them on the ride-along.



# CITIZENS ACADEMY

In 2008, the Merriam Police Department introduced its first Citizens Police Academy. Since then, the program has benefitted citizens, officers and the department.

The Academy provides citizens a first-hand look at what a police officer does on a daily basis, while police officers get to address law enforcement issues. All classes are designed to emulate the daily responsibilities of a Merriam police officer. Citizens are given the opportunity to participate in as many of the trainings as they feel comfortable.

Training sessions consist of more than just watching videos and listening to lectures. More than half of the time is actually spent in hands-on training. Students practice shooting handguns on the firearms range, and some even dare to experience a Taser shock. In addition to classes and exercises, students also go on a ride-along with a police officer during an actual shift. This provides a realistic opportunity for students to see how all that they've learned can be applied in the field.

The 2015 Citizens Police Academy consisted of ten weekly three-hour sessions from Sept. 2 – Nov. 4, 2015. The following items are covered during the program:

- Domestic Violence
- Use of Force
- Taser
- Firearms
- Defensive Tactics
- DUI Enforcement
- Police Equipment
- Basic Patrol Procedures
- Traffic Stops
- Accident Investigation
- Radar/Lidar
- Search and Seizure
- Investigations
- Merriam City Court
- Tour of the Johnson County Jail
- Tour of Johnson County Communications Center
- Johnson County Crime Lab



# POLICE OFFICER VOLUNTEERISM

The Merriam Police Department has been involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run since 1982. The Torch Run started in Wichita, Kansas and now has participants in all 50 states, Canada, Europe, Africa, China and Japan.

The Merriam Police Department participates in events like the Polar Plunge, Strikes for Bowling Tournament, Popcorn Standoff at Cinemark, and the Torch Run itself throughout the year, to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics. In 2015 the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run raised \$543,582.96. This is the most money ever raised in the state of Kansas. The Merriam Police Department raised \$21,150.20 which was the fifth highest of any law enforcement agency in Kansas.



GIRL SCOUTS STATION TOUR



SPECIAL OLYMPICS



BOY SCOUTS STATION TOUR



POLAR PLUNGE



TORCH RUN



POPCORN STANDOFF



SYNCHRONY FINANCIAL FAMILY DAY



HOME DEPOT SAFETY DAY



HEROES PULL

# 2015 GUNS N' HOSES

Guns N' Hoses is a charity boxing event that features boxing bouts between police, fire and emergency service personnel within the greater metropolitan area.

Participants are from the Missouri counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte; and the Kansas counties of Douglas, Johnson, Miami, Shawnee, and Wyandotte. All bouts are supervised by USA boxing, the national governing body of amateur boxing in the United States.



PO PAUL HUTCHINSON



PO HUTCHINSON IN BLUE

One hundred percent of the proceeds from Guns N' Hoses benefits local charities. The Majority goes directly to the Kansas City Crime Commission's Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (S.A.F.E.), which provides financial assistance to the spouses and children of local sworn officers, firefighters, and emergency service personnel killed in the line of duty. The rest is donated to amateur boxing programs in the Greater Kansas City area.

Merriam Officer Paul Hutchinson participated in this event for the second year in a row. All boxers are required to have a minimum of 20 training sessions with a certified USA boxing instructor before they can participate in the charity event.

## VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Chaplain Charles Boyce volunteers his time to assist our officers. He provides support to grieving family members at accident and crime scenes. In addition to these critical duties, he offers spiritual guidance to police employees and routinely rides with the officers during their patrol shifts. Charles is a youth minister, a Merriam resident, and a martial arts instructor with a 4th degree black belt in Tsuruoka Karate.



## AUTISM WRIST BANDS

Merriam families who have a member with autism now have a new resource to help keep them safe, thanks to the Merriam Police Department.

The police department this year received grant money to implement a GPS Program for Autistic Children. The department has provided GPS wrist devices to five families and has a few more available. The GPS devices are designed to help parents and guardians be able to monitor family members with autism who might have a tendency to wander away. The police department also has the capability to monitor the devices and react when the person needs to be found. The devices also can be monitored from a smart phone by the family.



"Finding them quickly is the greatest thing that we can do," said Major Darren McLaughlin of the Merriam Police Department. The persons now using the devices range from five years old to adult. The devices include wrist bands and watches. A Leawood-based company, Precise Innovations, is the provider of the devices.

Jennifer Smith of the Autism Society of the Heartland said Merriam is one of the first cities to be so proactive. "Many of the other cities in the area are going to follow," she said.

Much of the money in the grant was used to cover the initial cost of monitoring, which the families will eventually take over.

The devices also could be used to monitor a person with dementia.

# TESTIMONIALS

We appreciate the way you went above and beyond the call of duty and desired no public recognition. You have been a great help and blessing to us.

— REGARDING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DETECTIVE LAURA NAEGELE WHEN RESPONDING TO A RESIDENTIAL MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN OCTOBER 2015.

Thank you for the many, many services you've provided, large and small, domestic and public. The multitude and range of duties you provide for the community astounds me, and you have my eternal admiration and gratitude.

— A MERRIAM RESIDENT, SEPTEMBER 2015

I would like to commend the Merriam Police Department for their handling of an incident in November 2015. Your department's quick response led to two subjects being taken into custody, preventing possible injury to residents of the apartment complex, as well as fellow law enforcement officers.

— GREGORY K. GANT, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

We appreciate all the hard work and professional work you do to keep us and our business in such an excellent, safe environment, which improves our confidence to serve our community.

— A MERRIAM SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

Thank you to Officer Castaneda for taking the time to give our Girl Scout troop a tour of the police station. The girls had a lot of fun!

— DAISY TROOP 1921, MERRIAM PARK ELEMENTARY

Dear Officer Browning,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the lethality assessment and screen for domestic violence, which is an important tool in helping victims in domestic violence. You are making an impact and we (staff and clients) are grateful for your dedication to creating safety in our community.

— SAFEHOME STAFF

I have never seen an officer like Officer Taylor. My case related to a minor traffic accident where the other driver did not have any information at the time and I had trouble contacting them after. Officer Taylor, in no time was able to get me all of the information I needed. He even called the other party and had them contact me. I was so impressed.

— AN EXCERPT FROM A NOTE PRAISING THE SERVICE OF OFFICER ADAM TAYLOR

There was a 9-1-1 call requesting assistance for my dad, who was dying. Units arrived quickly, but he had already passed. However, the great part of this story is how your officers dealt with our family during this time of great shock and sorrow. While I know there was due diligence going on behind the scene, your officers were so kind and patient that we felt comforted by their presence.

— FROM A SHAWNEE RESIDENT REGARDING HER EXPERIENCE WITH MERRIAM PD OFFICER RASHAD CASTANEDA AND MASTER OFFICER LAURA NAEGELE, MAY 2015



# OFFICER OF THE YEAR



CPL. JAMES BROWNING

The Merriam Police Department Officer of the Year award is given to the officer who best demonstrates a distinct pattern of teamwork, community service, community policing, and promotes the department's core values of "courage, sacrifice, and compassion."

A Merriam Police Department Officer of the Year is an excellent role model for his/her fellow officers. They perform their duties in an exemplary fashion and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of their job. The Officer of the Year shows dedication to the department and our profession through reliability and flexibility with the various duties required of a police officer. They also keep physically fit and maintain proficiency with the tools required to protect themselves and the public.

The 2015 award winner was Corporal James Browning. Browning has more than nine years of dedicated service to the Merriam Police Department and is an Army veteran. He does his job consistently well and is always willing to assist and mentor the newer officers. In addition, James has numerous additional assignments to include PIO, Cooper fitness instructor, apartment liaison and active shooter instructor. James has helped train countless officers in the area in active shooter strategies over the past several years, as well as provided instruction to community groups and local businesses.

Cpl. Browning's most notable characteristic however is his dedication and service to charitable causes. His work with Special Olympics Kansas has been exemplary, which contributes to a positive reputation among the community as well as other police departments. James is a past member of the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Committee, he volunteered and organized such Special Olympic events as the Popcorn Standoff, Torch Run, Polar Plunge and Tip-a-Cop.

Congratulations, and thank you for your service, Corporal Browning!

## VALOR AWARDS



On November 11, 2015 at about 6:00 a.m. Sgt. Christopher Brokaw and Corporal Nicholas Weiler responded to a "shots fired" call in the area of Shawnee Mission Medical Center. While gathering information from witnesses the officers came under fire. They directed the witnesses to an area of cover and tried to locate the source of the gunfire. Once the apartment window which was the source of the gunfire was located Corporal Weiler left his position of cover and positioned himself next to the only exit from the building preventing anyone from escaping the apartment. He remained in this position until he received assistance from the Lenexa SWAT team. The suspects eventually gave up with no one injured. Both officers displayed courage under fire, compassion for the civilians in the danger zone and sacrifice for putting themselves in harm's way. Job Well Done!

# OFFICER ROSTER

## YEARS OF SERVICE BY RANK

RANK	START DATE	YEARS
Chief Mike Daniels	01.23.1987	28
Major Darren McLaughlin	07.24.1989	26
Capt. Troy Duvanel	05.15.1995	20
Capt. Todd Allen	03.25.1996	19
Sgt. John Walton	01.05.1998	17
Sgt. Jason Reynolds	05.08.2000	15
Sgt. Chris Brokaw	04.30.2001	14
Cpl. Phil Lewis	04.22.2002	13
Cpl. Jeremiah Waters	11.24.2003	12
Cpl. Nick Weiler	02.07.2005	10
Cpl. James Browning	10.23.2006	09
Cpl. Seth Mullis	12.27.2010	05
MPO Gerry Eickhoff	12.23.1991	24
MPO Wes Waller	04.18.2005	10
MPO Steven Wechsler	11.27.2006	09
MPO Corey Herron	02.23.2009	06
MPO Laura Naegele	12.27.2010	05
PO Cara Palmer	05.11.2011	04
PO Adam Taylor	06.18.2012	03
PO Vincent Rock	12.17.2012	03
PO Aaron Simmons	12.17.2012	03
PO David Vincent	03.25.2013	02
PO Paul Hutchinson	06.19.2013	02
PO Christopher Meyers	08.25.2014	01
PO Joshua Ready	08.25.2014	01
PO Rashad Castaneda	12.22.2014	01
PO Kyle Courtney	01.02.2015	<01
PO Kristin Hannabass	04.13.2015	<01
PO Jared Ruby	09.21.2015	<01
PO Austin Twite	12.28.2015	<01
CSO Charlie Yocum	03.04.2009	06
CSO Jamie Brokaw	10.05.2009	06
Lisa Aldrich-Jacobs	12.17.1991	24
Karen Gibson	11.11.1993	22
Ronda Brumbaugh	07.12.1999	16

## NEW TO TEAM MERRIAM



### KYLE COURTNEY

Hired: 01.01.2015

Kyle Courtney came to Merriam from Newport News, Virginia, where he worked as a police officer since February 2012. Kyle has a bachelor's degree in American History from The University of Kansas.



### KRISTIN HANNABASS

Hired: 04.13.2015

Officer Kristin Hannabass was hired on April 13, 2015 and is from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has a degree in Law Enforcement and also serves in the U.S. Army Reserves.



### JARED RUBY

Hired: 09.20.2015

Jared came to the Merriam Police Department after working at the Johnson County Sheriff's Office for three and a half years. He earned an associate's degree in electrical technology, and is currently working towards a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration at Park University.



### AUSTIN TWITE

Hired: 12.28.2015

Austin Twite earned a bachelor's of science degree in sociology from Kansas State University. He grew up in Olathe, Kansas.

# RETIRED MEMBERS

## OF THE MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

### SERVING 10 OR MORE YEARS

	START DATE	END DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Master Police Officer Jeff Magee	October 1987	January 2015	28
Chief Tim Burnett	January 1982	June 2014	32
Police Officer Larry Birt	March 1988	July 2012	24
Chief William Lietzke	December 1979	December 2011	32
Sergeant Dan Kellerman	January 1984	June 2011	27
Police Officer Charles Yocum	July 1977	February 2009	32
Sergeant Albert Jones	May 1983	December 2008	25
Sergeant Randy Davis	January 1981	February 2007	26
Chief Kenneth Sissom	January 1979	December 2005	26
Sergeant Robert Smith	June 1977	November 2002	25
Sergeant Winfield (Syd) Tubbs	August 1979	September 1997	18
Chief James Browning	November 1979	June 1992	12
Sergeant Jerry Bybee	October 1963	March 1992	29
Captain Gene Nicholson	June 1969	1984	23

# RETIREMENT



MPO JEFF MAGEE

In January of 2015 Master Police Officer Jeff Magee retired after 30 years of dedicated service to the city and citizens of Merriam. He served three years as a reserve police officer followed by 27 years as a full-time police officer. He was well liked and respected by citizens, fellow officers and other Merriam city employees. His commitment to our city and our department will be greatly missed.



**MERRIAM**

*Just right.*

## MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

9010 W. 62ND STREET  
MERRIAM, KANSAS 66202  
913.322.5560 • WWW.MERRIAM.ORG/MPD

